· AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.50 · FRANCE 1.00 EUROS · ICELAND KR100 · NEW ZEALAND $2.00 · SWEDEN KR10 · UK £.50 · U.S. $1.00

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 69/NO. 27 JULY 18, 2005

INSIDE

Militant Fighting Fund gains endorsers at NOW conference

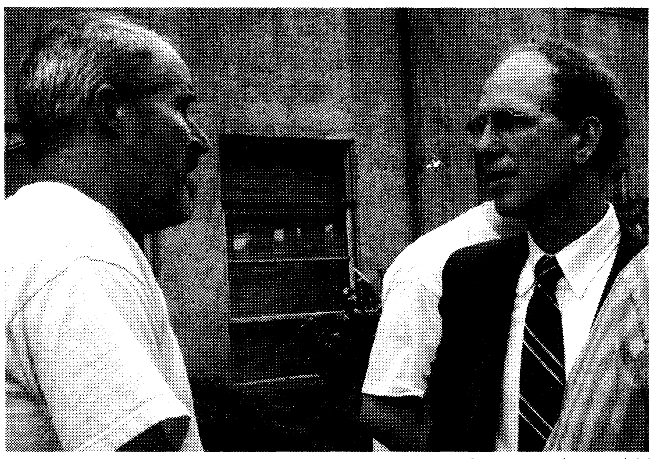
—PAGE 4

Seattle socialist candidate joins cement workers at union rally

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

SEATTLE—Campaigning at a June 30 rally in support of a union-organizing drive at Ash Grove Cement, Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Chris Hoeppner was warmly received by many workers here.

Ash Grove workers are voting July 6 on representation with International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 19. Some 60 supporters of the cement workers, many of them longshore workers from the nearby docks, rallied at the plant to protest the company's anti-union moves leading up to the union vote.



Militant/David Rosenfeld

Chris Hoeppner (right), Socialist Workers candidate for Seattle mayor, speaks at June 30 union rally with Ken Miller, a leader of fight at Ash Grove Cement to win representation by International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Hoeppner, a packinghouse worker, discussed with fellow unionists at the rally the significance of job actions in recent years by truck drivers at Atlantic, Gulf Coast, and Western ports, which pose sharply the need for unions. A central

Continued on page 3

Outrage meets racist assault in Howard Beach, New York

BY SALM KOLIS AND ARRIN HAWKINS

QUEENS, New York—"We have come so far, but not far enough. Times have changed, but racist attacks like the one against my son still happen," Chandra Eison said July 4 outside Jamaica Medical Center here, where her son Glenn Moore has been hospitalized since he was beaten by racist thugs June 29.

Some 50 people joined Eison in a vigil in front of the hospital that day. The protest, initiated by Democratic politician Alfred Sharpton, also included Thomas Eison, Moore's stepfather; city councilman Charles Barron; and Rev. Herbert Daughtry of the African People's Christian Organization. A contingent from the NAACP chapter in Jamaica, Queens, was present along with hospital workers on their lunch hour.

From the hospital, a motorcade went to the Lindenwood neighborhood, where Moore lives. It ended 10 blocks away at 79th Street and 160th

Continued on page 7

Pickets at Co-Op mine press fight for UMWA



Militant/Mark Downs

Co-Op miners and supporters picket June 29 outside the Huntington, Utah, coal mine where they are fighting for representation by the United Mine Workers of America.

BY MARK DOWNS

HUNTINGTON, Utah—The signs read, in English and Spanish: "UMWA all the way!" "Count the votes!" "We want the UMWA!"

Ten Co-Op miners and supporters held up these signs during an informational picket line June 29 at the entrance to the Co-Op mine here.

It was the latest of such picket lines that the miners have organized during their 22-month-long battle to organize the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) at the mine, owned by C.W. Mining.

The Co-Op miners were joined on the picket line by Bob Fivecoat, a member of UMWA Local 9958, which is made up of retired miners, and two members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), Mike Downs from San Francisco and Mark Downs of Seattle.

The pickets waved their signs to vehicles traveling along Huntington

Continued on page 4

Clinics operated by Cuban doctors expand in Venezuela

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND CARLOS CORNEJO

VALENCIA, Venezuela—"We've now entered the second phase of *Barrio Adentro*," said Joel Pantoja, a Venezuelan doctor here. "The neighborhood clinics where some of us—and many more Cubans—offer medical care free of charge are being supplemented with larger clinics. Those facilities have modern equipment and the capacity to handle serious emergencies."

"Barrio Adentro" translates roughly as "Into the heart of the neighborhood." It is a government-sponsored program that has brought to Venezuela volunteer Cuban doctors operating competent neighborhood clinics in working-class districts and rural areas where workers and farmers have had little or no access to health care. Their numbers have increased from approximately 10,000 doctors last year to 18,000 today.

A small and growing number of Venezuelan doctors, most of them young, have joined the program. "We are now about 1,800 around the country, compared to none a year ago," Pantoja said.

Under Barrio Adentro II, larger popular clinics are being built. Most of these, called Integrated Diagnostic Centers (CDI), offer emergency care, including minor surgery. Modern equipment in well-built and air-conditioned facilities allows advanced diagnosis and care. Laboratories and ambulances are included. The government plans to build about 600 CDIs this year. Integrated Rehabilitation Centers and advanced technology labs are also being opened, for a total of 1,200 new clinics slated for completion this year. The rehabilitation centers offer physical therapy and acupuncture, and include a gym.

"Health care and medicine are free for anyone who shows up," said Olga Grillo, a Cuban doctor on duty July 3 at

Continued on page 3

Also Inside:

Nuclear fusion plant to be built in France

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—A consortium of companies in the United States, Japan, south Korea, Russia, China, and the European Union announced June 28 that France will be the site of the world's first large-scale fusion power reactor.

The previous day, the U.S. Department of Energy said it would resume production of plutonium used to power spacecraft and equipment utilized in "security activities."

Several governments in Eastern Europe are building a new generation of nuclear power plants to meet domestic energy needs and export power to western Europe. These are among the most recent examples of the increasing trend toward use of nuclear power, as the world's fossil fuel reserves continue a long-term decline.

The $12 billion experimental fusion reactor would be built in Cadarache, near the southern French city of Marseille. It is projected to start operating in 2016, although "opponents say the project is only experimental and it will be at least 50 years before a commercially viable reactor is built," the Reuters news agency reported June 28. "If we can really make this work, there will be enough electricity to last the world for the next 1,000 to 2,000 years," said Ian Fells of the Royal Academy of Engineering in Britain, according to Reuters.

Fusion reactors mimic the process that occurs at the sun's core or in a hydrogen bomb, where hydrogen atoms are fused producing heat in the millions of degrees. Scientists say the challenge, however, is how to duplicate those processes in a controlled way so the heat produced can be used to generate electricity. Fells gives it a 50-50 chance.

Drive towards nuclear power

The ongoing depletion of the world's fossil fuels is behind the growing trend in the imperialist countries and semicolonial nations such as Iran to turn to nuclear power. "We know oil and gas depletion will start in 2030 or 2035," Peter Haug, secretary general of the European Nuclear Society, told the *New York Times*. He said renewable energy sources like wind or solar power would never provide more than a small amount of the world's energy needs and that "there is enough coal in the earth to keep the world running for centuries, but at an unacceptable environmental cost," the *Times* reported.

Fusion reactors use fuel from deuterium, a hydrogen isotope that can be extracted from seawater, ensuring a virtually unlimited energy source. Haug said fusion reactors are not expected to replace fission reactors, which use enriched uranium as fuel, but to augment them to meet energy needs.

Pressing Congress to approve an energy bill that includes construction of nuclear power plants, U.S. president George Bush toured a power plant operated by Constellation Energy Group. The company is seeking a license to construct the first nuclear power plant in the United States in 30 years. Bush argued that nuclear power will reduce dependency on oil and natural gas. He noted that France meets 78 percent of its electricity consumption with nuclear reactors, compared with 20 percent for the United States.

Plutonium-238 production

U.S. Energy Department spokesman Michael Waldron said June 27 that Washington is moving to resume production of plutonium-238. The U.S. government stopped producing that isotope when it shut down its Savannah River complex in South Carolina in the mid-1990s, relying since then on existing stockpiles and a supply from Russia for the U.S. space program. The new program will take place at the Idaho National Laboratory near Idaho Falls.

"Production of plutnium-238 is critical if the United States is to continue its leadership in areas of space exploration and provide for certain classified security operations." said Waldron. Plutonium-238 is not used for nuclear weapons but rather for spacecraft and some espionage devices. Solar batteries made of it are used to power spacecraft that go where sunlight is too dim to charge solar cells.

Several governments in Eastern Europe—the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria—plan to build new nuclear power plants to meet rising domestic energy demand and to reduce dependence on Russia, which supplies 90 percent of natural gas in some countries in the region. They are also looking to export power to western Europe, where 60 percent of the aging power plants will have to be closed by 2010.

This situation has led to some cross-border stand-offs. The Austrian government tried to stop the Czech Republic's publicly traded utility—CEZ AS company—from upgrading its Temelin nuclear plant, located 37 miles from Austria's border.

The European Union made the closing of Bulgaria's Kozloduy nuclear plant a condition for entry into the EU, saying it did not meet safety requirements. But the International Atomic Energy Agency said the plant is among the most profitable in Europe and met safety standards.

Chemical workers strike in Ontario, Canada



MAITLAND, Ontario—Striking chemical workers, members of Local 28-0 of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP), picket the old Phillips Cable site in Brockville June 27, where Invista Maitland, a major employer in the region, is storing its manufactured goods.

After rejecting the company's offer by 93 percent, the 380 CEP members began their strike June 4. Invista Maitland's demands include elimination of benefits, an increase in the workweek, and more contracting out—further undermining union seniority rights and control over safety.

—ANNETTE KOURI

The Militant

VOL. 69/NO. 27

Closing news date: July 6, 2005

Editor and circulation director: Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: Arrin Hawkins, Martín Koppel, Paul Pederson, and Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, June, and September.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899; Fax (212) 244-4947.

E-mail: TheMilitant@verizon.net

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Subscriptions: **United States**: for one-year subscription send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send $65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send $80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send $65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian $50 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address. **France:** Send 75 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Iceland: Send 3,500 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to the Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 400 Swedish kronor for one year. Bjulvägen 33, kv, S-122 41 Enskede. Tel: (08) 31 69 33., Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ$55 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$55 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Health care in Venezuela

Continued from front page

the Canaima Integral Diagnostic Center. "On average, we see 200 people a day." All seven doctors there are Cuban. The rest of the personnel are Venezuelans.

One of the first to become operational around the country, the Canaima clinic was inaugurated May 29. "We are supposed to serve about 40,000 people in this area of south Valencia," said Heriberto Colina, the clinic's administrator, referring to the mostly working-class area of the city, the country's third-largest. "So far, it's mostly people from nearby neighborhoods who come. But as our reputation spreads, we also see more people from better-off areas."

The Canaima center is open 24/7 and has 16 beds. More than 90 such clinics and rehabilitation centers are planned for Carabobo state, said Engelbert Rodríguez, the Venezuelan doctor coordinating Barrio Adentro II in Valencia. Seven have been completed so far.

Enthusiasm among working people about the expansion of Barrio Adentro was evident in Valencia and elsewhere. In the January 23 neighborhood of Caracas, Luis Casadiego, who coordinates the program with the Cuban doctors in the Montepiedad section, showed us plans for a local CDI. "We are breaking ground next week," he said.

Ismael Machado, a retired worker there, said the most important thing is that "Cuban doctors treat us like human beings." Anticommunist prejudices have faded, he said, despite a virulent campaign by many capitalists and Venezuela's Medical Federation to try to paint the Cuban doctors as coming here to spread "totalitarianism," not to save lives. "With the new medical centers we rely even less on the hospitals."

Pantoja said up to 60 percent of medical visits across the country still take place in hospitals, which are overcrowded and ill-equipped.

Clinics like the April 19 primary care center in Valencia where Pantoja works number nearly 10,000 across the country, he said. "We need double that number and another 10,000 doctors involved. That's why we are trying to recruit more Venezuelan doctors."



Cuban doctor at "Barcelona" Integrated Diagnostic Center in June

Pantoja said the government pays doctors like him $550 a month as an incentive. This is three times the minimum wage, which most workers get, and more than double the pay of Cuban doctors. Pantoja is being trained by Norberto Galarraga, a Cuban doctor who lives on the premises. Like most such centers, the April 19 clinic is a room in a private home, in this case, that of Pascual Borrais, a retired textile worker. The government is building neighborhood offices to create better facilities than those possible in workers' homes, Pantoja said. "But it's going slow."

In mid-June, the government announced it will soon launch the third phase of Barrio Adentro. This includes repairing and re-equipping the country's 299 public hospitals and building new ones that would offer care like the clinics operated by Cuban doctors.

This won't be easy, Pantoja said. There is strong opposition from many in the capitalist class, including in the Fifth Republic Movement (MVR), the governing party. Carabobo's new governor, an MVR member, he said, announced steps this year to privatize the four public hospitals in the state.

"He backed down after El Cimarrón and other groups organized a march of 1,000 in April to protest this plan," Pantoja said. El Cimarrón is a group Pantoja and others founded five years ago, while still in medical school, that fought to bring Barrio Adentro to Valencia. "We've made progress," Pantoja said. "But we're building a medical system parallel to private medicine. We won't resolve the contradictions as long as the wealthy control the economy."

Pittsburgh socialist campaign reaches miners

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH—Campaigners have collected more than 2,800 signatures to place Jay Ressler, a coal miner and Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, on the ballot in November. Over the past week they made a special effort to reach out to workers at several nearby coal mines and introduce them to the Socialist Workers campaign platform. Thirty people purchased the *Militant*, the socialist campaign newspaper, at four mines.

"Co-workers were pleased to find out about a coal miner running for office against the big-business parties," said Brian Taylor after a SWP campaign team visited the 84 Mine, where he works. "Those who stopped to talk to the sales team were particularly interested to read in the *Militant* about the fight by the Co-Op miners and their example of workers in a small nonunion mine fighting to rebuild the mine workers union."

Inside the bathhouse, some workers approached Taylor about the *Militant*. Taylor, a member of the United Mine Workers of America, is the Pittsburgh Socialist Workers campaign manager.

At the McElroy mine, near Moundsville, West Virginia, one miner who stopped to get a *Militant* had seen a campaign brochure on a previous visit. He asked, "How come a coal miner can support nuclear power?"

He was referring to a central axis of the SWP campaign platform, which champions the right of semicolonial countries to develop the energy resources necessary to expand electrification, and oppose the efforts of Washington and its allies to prevent nations oppressed by imperialism from developing nuclear power and other sources of energy.

A brief discussion took place on how coal miners as workers had to look at this from a standpoint of our class, and that miners should not approach such questions from the point of view of the coal industry.

The socialist campaigners have collected nearly triple the official requirement of 1,041 signatures. They are now focusing on preparation of the petitions to file before the August 1 deadline.

Through the course of the campaign Ressler has made it clear that he will not sign the loyalty oath required by the state of Pennsylvania to appear on the ballot. Describing it as "flagrantly unconstitutional," he called the oath "a danger to the political rights of the working class and the majority of the people in Pennsylvania."

Seattle campaign

Continued from front page

point of the Socialist Workers campaign platform is the need to organize unions and to use and extend union power to defend working people from the bosses' assaults.

After the rally, Hoeppner and Ken Miller, a 13-year employee at Ash Grove who is helping to lead the union-organizing drive, spoke about this fight and other labor battles. Miller told the socialist candidate that "dignity and safety are the biggest issues on the job."

Hoeppner pointed to the example of ILWU Local 19, based at the Port of Seattle, which helped organize two tours by striking Utah coal miners who are fighting for representation by the United Mine Workers of America. He also highlighted the successful organizing drive by cannery workers at the Snokist plant in Yakima, Washington, as a fight deserving labor solidarity.

Earlier in the week, the socialist candidate spoke on a panel at a fund-raising program for Seattle youth attending the World Festival of Youth and Students in Venezuela in August.

Hoeppner has filed for exemption from publicly disclosing the names of financial contributors to the campaign. The Seattle Ethics and Election Commission (SEEC) has granted the SWP's request for an expedited hearing on this issue, setting it for July 14. The party is fighting to regain a campaign disclosure exemption in Seattle, which the SEEC denied it in 1997.

Sales to meat packers, miners boost 'New International' drive

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Special sales teams that reached out to Midwest meat packers and to Western coal miners gave a boost to the campaign to sell the two newest issues of *New International* magazine. Socialists have been campaigning to sell 3,350 copies by August 22.

At the two-thirds mark in the campaign, 61 percent of the goal has been reached, 6 percentage points behind pace. A stepped-up, weekly effort is needed to catch up.

"We have found a lot of interest among meat packers here in organizing unions and strengthening them where they exist," said Joe Swanson, organizer of a week-long team to meatpacking centers in the Midwest. "In Storm Lake, Iowa, a lot of workers we talked to said they wanted another attempt to organize the union at the big Tyson pork plant there. Last year an organizing attempt failed. Workers said they are being treated worse now, after the election. So a lot of workers say they are rethinking how they voted.

Fourteen people subscribed to the *Militant* in Storm Lake, mainly Tyson workers. "We met for an hour with a couple who were active in the organizing campaign," Swanson said. "They bought a copy of [the Spanish-language] *Nueva Internacional* no. 6. Another young man active in the campaign last year talked with us for a long time. He said it was very important to study *Nueva Internacional*." As of July 5, four copies of *New International* and 24 *Militant* subscriptions have been collected by the Midwest team.

Seven copies of *New International* were sold on a five-day regional sales team to Utah and Arizona. Nearly 70 people purchased the *Militant* at shift changes outside mines in Utah and Arizona.

Susan Lamont from Birmingham, Alabama, reports that people attending the convention of the National Organization for Women in Nashville, Tennessee, bought eight copies of *New International* and 11 subscribed to the *Militant*.



New International sales campaign March 26 – August 22

Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	**170**	**151**	**89%**
Edinburgh	**50**	**38**	**76%**
UK total	**220**	**189**	**86%**
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	**55**	**45**	**82%**
Christchurch	**20**	**15**	**75%**
N.Z. total	**75**	**60**	**80%**
SWEDEN	**40**	**28**	**70%**
CANADA	**150**	**103**	**69%**
UNITED STATES			
Chicago	**115**	**92**	**80%**
Washington	**95**	**76**	**80%**
Houston	**105**	**79**	**75%**
Miami	**110**	**76**	**69%**
Seattle	**130**	**89**	**68%**
Los Angeles	**225**	**151**	**67%**
San Francisco	205	136	66%
Philadelphia	100	66	66%
Atlanta	115	75	64%
New York	325	209	64%
Twin Cities	140	91	64%
Birmingham	112	66	59%
Newark	125	72	58%
Boston	120	69	58%
Des Moines	105	58	55%
Price, UT	61	33	54%
Pittsburgh	100	54	54%
Salt Lake City	15	4	27%
U.S. total	2303	1493	65%
AUSTRALIA	60	38	63%
ICELAND	32	17	53%
World Youth Festival	250	0	0%
pathfinderpress.com	200	115	58%
Int'l totals	3330	2046	61%
Goals/Should be	**3350**	**2233**	**67%**

Militant Fighting Fund gains endorsers at NOW conference

BY PAUL MAILHOT

SALT LAKE CITY—Nearly 20 people signed on as endorsers of the Militant Fighting Fund at the July 1–3 National Organization for Women conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

The fund campaign has been launched to help defend the freedom of the press and free speech rights of the *Militant* and the Socialist Workers Party, two targets of a harassment lawsuit filed in September 2004 by C.W. Mining, the owner of the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah. It seeks to win endorsers and raise funds to cover the legal defense costs.

The lawsuit targets nearly 100 defendants, including the United Mine Workers of America, as well as other trade unions and individuals who back the miners' fight for a union at the Co-Op mine. It includes numerous defamation allegations against the *Militant* as well as two Utah dailies, the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News.*

Citing her appreciation for the long record of the *Militant* and the Socialist Workers Party in defense of democratic rights, Patricia Ireland, president of NOW from 1991 to 2001, became an endorser, as did Olga Vives, the organization's current executive vice-president.

Five young women from the Making Waves club at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, each signed up as endorsers at the NOW conference. After hearing an explanation of the C.W. Mining lawsuit, one member of the group explained to her friends why she thought the fight for free speech was so important and got the others to support the Militant Fighting Fund. Also endorsing were Mary Bennett, an executive board member of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2858 in Chicago, and Timothy Sullivan, a member of American Federation of Teachers Local 400 in Pittsburgh. Some $55 was contributed.

At a June 30 Workers Rights Board meeting sponsored by Jobs with Justice in Salt Lake City, a dozen people signed endorser cards and contributed nearly $50 to the Militant Fighting Fund. Many of the 100 participants had heard of the case.

Many were eager to find out more about what is being done to fight the coal bosses' lawsuit after hearing Ana María Sánchez and Bill Estrada, two Co-Op miners who spoke at the meeting. "Because of our struggle to unionize, the [Co-Op bosses] have filed a defamation complaint in federal court against 16 miners, the United Mine Workers of America, newspapers that have covered the fight, and many people and organizations that have supported us," Sánchez told the audience. "This is the way the company seeks revenge. They try to intimidate us with this lawsuit, but they have not succeeded."

Among those signing up at the Jobs with Justice meeting were Utah District 31 legislative representative Larry Wiley; University of Utah professor of nursing Susan Beck; Cory Williams, executive board member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 354; and Charlotte Fife-Jepperson, editor of the *West View* community newspaper in Salt Lake City.

Collection toward the Militant Fighting Fund goal of $60,000 now stands at $11,938 with six weeks left to the August 15 deadline. Each area where there are supporters of the *Militant* has been encouraged to take a quota. A chart will be posted in the *Militant* published July 24 with information from each area adopting a quota.

Contributions are much needed to cover mounting legal and publicity expenses in fighting the C.W. Mining lawsuit. Funds and endorsement cards can be sent to Militant Fighting Fund, P.O. Box 520994, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0994. Information can also be sent to MilitantFightingFund@yahoo.com or faxed to (801) 924-5910.

1,500 copper workers strike in Arizona, Texas



Militant/Eric Austin

Some 1,500 copper miners voted to strike in the first week of July after working for a year without a contract at Asarco's mines, mills, and smelters around Tucson, Arizona, and at the company's refinery in Amarillo, Texas. The company is demanding a wage freeze and cuts in medical and pension benefits from the workers, who are represented by several different unions including the United Steelworkers of America, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the International Union of Operating Engineers. Above, miners at the picket line outside the Silverbell mine July 5 in Tucson.

Co-Op miners speak at Salt Lake City meeting

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

SALT LAKE CITY—"Our struggle to gain representation by the United Mine Workers of America has not ended. We continue in our goals of a safe mine, respect and dignity, health insurance and reasonable wages," Co-Op miner Ana María Sánchez told an audience of more than 100 at an event called "Workers Rights Board Hearing: The Right to Organize." It was held here June 30 at the city library auditorium.

The public meeting, organized by Utah Jobs with Justice, was attended by many in the Salt Lake area who have been winning support for the coal miners in their 22-month battle to organize the UMWA at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah.

Sánchez, along with Lori Gray, a nurse at the Salt Lake Regional Medical Center, and Larry Tidwell, a telephone worker at Comcast, were invited to give testimony before the "workers rights board" panel on their respective struggles to organize a union. The five-person panel included Salt Lake City mayor Ross "Rocky" Anderson and State Senator Scott McCoy.

Sánchez told the audience that C.W. Mining, which owns the Co-Op mine, and the International Association of United Workers Union (IAUWU) have filed a defamation complaint against 16 miners, the UMWA, newspapers that have covered the struggle, and many others. She said, "They try to intimidate us with this lawsuit, but they have not succeeded. We persist and maintain a picket line in front of the mine. Production at the mine is much lower without us there."

Following the workers' presentations, the floor was opened for any company representatives to speak. From the audience, Co-Op mine manager Charles Reynolds walked up to the stage.

"Our company has bargained with unions for 30 years," he claimed. "We are an equal opportunity employer—our goal is that our employees are treated well." When Reynolds said Co-Op was one of the safest mines in Utah, he was booed.

Also in the audience was IAUWU president Chris Grundvig. The miners say the IAUWU has never represented them.

Workers at the Co-Op mine report that most of them have been paid wages of $5.25 to $7.00 an hour, far below the industry average of at least $17 an hour.

Nearly two years ago the miners, in their majority Mexican-born workers, decided to fight to change the conditions at the Co-Op mine, owned by C.W. Mining Co. They began talking to the UMWA about getting a real union.

Many of the miners have been fired twice: first in September 2003, and the second time eight days before a union election on Dec. 17, 2004.

One of the panelists, Martín Díaz, asked Reynolds, "Would you be open to the UMWA?" Taking several minutes to respond and looking down at the Bible he was holding, Reynolds said, "I don't know how much I could comment on that without looking into this. If the employees choose the UMWA we would bargain with it."

Another question to Reynolds was: "Would you work for $5.25 an hour?" He said, "I guess if there was a better job I'd take it." Asked why the miners wanted a union, he said, "In my opinion, I can't elaborate on that."

From the audience, Co-Op miner Bill Estrada took the floor. "It has been 22 months and we cannot depend on the NLRB and MSHA," he said, referring to the National Labor Relations Board and the Mine Safety and Health Administration. "We miners have made a choice. We want to be represented by the UMWA and the NLRB refuses to count the votes. This is a serious issue. It affects not only us but all other coal miners in Utah."

Estrada added, "We're not going to go away. We're still organizing picket lines."

Miners picket Co-Op mine

Continued from front page

Canyon. Coal haulers carrying loads from a nearby mine honked long and loud in support.

"It's time for justice. We want our jobs back," said Raymundo Silva, one of the miners at Co-Op. Silva and other miners also waved their UMWA signs to bosses and their relatives coming out of the mine.

Picketing miners said the bosses are still calling some miners to come to work under the same conditions as when they were fired. All the workers coming out of the mine at the end of day shift, however, were relatives of the mine owners, according to the pickets.

Silva and the other miners asked each other, "Where are the coal trucks?" referring to the CTC company trucks that haul the coal from Co-Op. "They used to run day and night before the strike," said Sergio Ponce, a welder at the mine. Only one truck had come out of the mine after more than an hour of picketing.

Moments later one of the miners yelled, "Look it's Jimmy!" when he saw an approaching CTC truck. "Oh my God," said the miner, "he's now driving a coal truck. He used to be my boss underground at Co-Op." Everybody erupted in laughter and cheers.

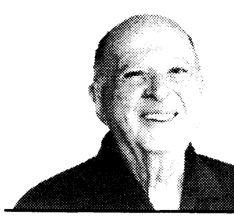
"Let's stay until he comes out," said Silva, who brought a cooler with sodas for everybody in the back of his truck. Everyone refreshed themselves with a drink while they waited for the boss to come out. After more than a half hour of waiting, a miner called out, "There he is!" The boss came out driving his own pickup truck on his way home. The miners waved their signs at the mine boss and laughed some more as he sped away.

After two hours of picketing the miners gathered up and said they planned to come back again another day.

Mark Downs is a retired longshore worker and ILWU member in Seattle, Washington, where he is active in building solidarity for the Co-Op miners.

GREAT SOCIETY

Become a pinhead boss?—We stopped reading with the first sentence: "If Albert Einstein were alive today, I would have one piece of advice for him. Get a real job."—A *USA Today* guest column by the president of a digital media company.



Harry Ring

Now here's a home—If you're looking for a more spacious home, and it hasn't been snapped up, check out this Beverly Hills cottage. Walled and gated, 10 bathrooms and 14 bedrooms. And, this is neat, a library with a hidden bar. If it hasn't already been snapped up, it's yours for $32 million.

You read about it in school?—"Chinese Massacre Cove" has been proposed as the name for a cove on the Snake River in Oregon. In 1887, an inexact number of Chinese miners were murdered by seven men in the area. The number of victims is known only as ranging up to 37. None of the killers were convicted. The present proposed name of the cove was anticipated for approval by the state Geographic Names Board. Stay tuned.

But not to worry—For two months in a row, the Ford Motor Company had to slash its anticipated profit forecast. Moody's Investment Service, which rates Ford, said it's likely it will further downgrade the company's junk bond status. The same status is also accorded to General Motors.

U.S. rape of Panama—A suspension bridge across the U.S.-built Panama Canal is due to open this month. The bridge is expected to reduce clogged traffic. Meanwhile, Panama has been left with a bitter legacy. When building the canal in the early 1900s, the U.S. government leased the land and a five-mile zone on either side of the canal. The lease was in "perpetuity."

Panamanian pressure led Washington to yield the canal in 1999. But the Pentagon refuses to clean up the "costly" military target ranges in the former Canal Zone and beyond. Leftovers include seven big unexploded chemical bombs.

Panama is told the remaining cleanup is exempted by fine print in the U.S.-drafted pact. Last November, secretary of war Donald Rumsfeld visited Panama. He curtly said the treaty has been lived up to, "and the matter has been closed."

Conflict sharpens between U.S., Japanese auto bosses over share of market

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

Japanese auto manufacturers that are expanding production and sales in the United States have expressed fears of a protectionist backlash by U.S. business if General Motors and Ford slide further toward collapse. The bond rating of the two U.S. auto giants was reduced to junk status in May and their share of the U.S. auto market has continued to decline in face of competition from Japanese companies.

GM and Ford have indicated, however, that they will not seek new trade restrictions on cars manufactured by Japanese companies. Rather, they will count on a yen that is overvalued against the dollar to help them boost their own exports.

Hiroshi Okuda, Toyota chairman and head of the Japan Business Federation, underscored the concern of Japanese auto bosses about an economic nationalistic campaign in the United States. "GM and Ford are symbols of U.S. industry, and if they were to crumble it could fan nationalist sentiment," he said. Toyota, which has five manufacturing plants in the United States and is scheduled to open another facility in San Antonio, Texas, this year has cornered 13.4 percent of the U.S. auto market, according to the Reuters news agency. Meanwhile, General Motors, the world's biggest automaker, lost $1.1 billion in the first quarter of this year.

GM and Ford announced June 8 that they were not proposing trade restrictions on Japanese imports, unlike during the early 1980s when U.S. pressure led to an agreement by Japanese automakers to limit exports.

Instead, U.S. auto companies seek to change the exchange rate between the yen and the dollar. They claim the Bank of Japan has intervened in currency markets to weaken the yen and give Japanese automakers an edge over their U.S. rivals. The U.S. rulers themselves deliberately weaken the dollar relative to the currencies of their rivals to undercut sale of their goods on the world market.

Despite the rivalry between the U.S. and Japanese auto manufacturers, they share a tacit agreement in dealing blows to the United Auto Workers (UAW) union. For more than a decade, Japanese and Korean auto companies have been building manufacturing facilities in the United States in order to avoid high tariffs on imports. These plants, based largely in the U.S. South, are all nonunion, and organizing efforts so far have failed to win union recognition. In UAW-organized plants, the auto bosses are pushing for concessions, forcing more of the health-care and pension costs onto workers.

Teamsters strike Avis in San Jose, California, against health-care concessions



Militant/Laura Anderson

Teamsters Local 665 members picket Avis Rent-A-Car in San Jose, California, June 17. The unionists walked out 10 days earlier to fight company demands to almost double their medical payments and accept a minimal wage increase. Forty-two service agents are on strike.

Striker José Sandoval said the wage increase proposed by the bosses of 60 cents an hour each year of a five-year contract would be cancelled out by higher medical payments. "We voted to strike because of the bad offer and because we had confidence that we could unite and stay together," he stated.

"This is the first time I've been on strike, and it's true of all the workers here," said Balhir Singh, as he picketed in front of the Avis maintenance facility.

—BETSEY STONE

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

July 18, 1980

South Africa has launched a major invasion of Angola.

Devastating attacks are being carried out against Angolan villages.

Hundreds of Angolans, as well as Namibian refugees and freedom fighters, have been massacred.

Elisio De Figueiredo, Angolan ambassador to the United Nations, charged at a special session of the UN Security Council, "These are not merely war preparations…this is war."

The Carter administration verbally criticized South Africa's attacks. But U.S. delegate William Vanden Heuvel joined French and British delegates in abstaining on a motion condemning South Africa in the Security Council.

During the South African invasion of Angola in 1975, U.S. officials also formally dissociated themselves from the racist regime. But it was later admitted that every step in South Africa's attack had been coordinated with Washington.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

July 18, 1955

In its advance publicity dealing with the conference of the Big Four [United States, United Kingdom, Soviet Union, and France], which is to begin at Geneva July 18, the State Department has stressed that little is to be expected from the parley. By this [John Foster] Dulles means that he counts on major concessions in substance from Moscow and that Washington for its side will certainly offer none.

What has happened is a shift in the world balance of power to the disfavor of American capitalism.

The shift has been registered in a very real way by the continued revolutionary ferment throughout Asia, by the power of the Chinese revolution proved by force of arms in Korea, by the difficulty of rearming Germany and Japan, and by the bitterness of the American people over involvement in the Korean conflict.

Along with this, the rise of the Soviet Union out of World War II to the status of a major power convinced the heads of America's 60 ruling families that an early war against this formidable force would prove suicidal.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America (Opposition)

July 26, 1930

The bubble of the Whalen documents has been loudly and derisively punctured. That clown and former police commissioner Whalen presented these documents as "proof" that Amtorg the official Soviet trading agency in New York was the center of Communist propaganda for the United States.

Three witnesses called before the Fish Committee have conclusively demonstrated from different angles that these "documents" are absolute and unadulterated forgeries.

It is the time-honored practise of the ruling class always to explain away "social unrest" as a malicious foreign importation. In our present epoch of proletarian struggle, the capitalists find the key to all the riddles of the universe in…Moscow gold.

There Is No Peace: 60 Years Since End of World War II

Lessons from Spanish revolution in 1930s

Popular Front subordinated workers to capitalists, led to victory of Franco

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

An article last week described the mass working-class upsurge that exploded in France in 1936 in response to the social crisis that shook the capitalist system worldwide in the 1930s. It also explained how the Popular Front course carried out by the French Socialist and Communist parties derailed this revolutionary opening for workers and farmers to take political power.

The Popular Front was the line promoted by the Soviet government and pro-Moscow parties around the world, starting in 1935, of seeking programmatic alliances with "progressive" capitalist parties. During World War II, Communist parties everywhere—from the United States to France to Argentina—backed Washington and other "Allied" powers in their imperialist dispute with their "Axis" rivals.



Pro-republican forces prepare for battle in 1936 during the Spanish revolution. In response to rightist rebellion led by Gen. Francisco Franco in July of that year, huge popular upsurge by working people demanded arms to fight the fascists.

That course was also put to a test in Spain, where a revolutionary opportunity arose. A worker and peasant upsurge had begun in 1930 with the collapse of the Primo de Rivera dictatorship. King Alfonso XIII abdicated and a republic was declared. The government, made up of capitalist parties, also included Socialist Party ministers. Parliamentary elections gave an overwhelming majority to pro-republican parties, with the Socialist Party having the largest number of seats.

Revolution

With heightened expectations, workers and peasants fought for their demands. For millions of rural toilers oppressed by big landlords, a thoroughgoing agrarian reform was the most burning need in this predominantly agricultural country. Workers fought for wage increases and more control over job conditions. In many cases these struggles began to challenge the capitalists' property prerogatives.

Leon Trotsky wrote extensively on the Spanish events, pointing to the potential of the working class to carry out a socialist revolution in alliance with peasants. Above all, he said, what was needed was a communist party with a revolutionary strategy to lead working people to contend for power.

Trotsky drew on his experiences as one of the central leaders of the October 1917 Russian Revolution, in which workers and farmers, led by the Bolshevik Party, took political power, overthrew capitalist rule, and advanced the worldwide struggle for socialism.

The Spanish capitalists responded to the upturn in struggles with repression. In 1931 the army was sent to crush a strike wave in Seville. In October 1934, protesting the inclusion of rightist politicians in the government, coal miners took over the town of Oviedo in Asturias province. The government called in General Francisco Franco, who suppressed the revolt, killing and jailing thousands of workers.

These events deepened the working-class and peasant radicalization. The February 1936 elections brought to power a Popular Front government—a coalition of bourgeois republicans and the Socialist and Communist parties. The anarchists in the National Confederation of Labor (CNT) as well as the centrist Workers Party of Marxist Unification (POUM) backed the government, and later joined it. The Spanish CP was following the line dictated by the Soviet government, where a privileged bureaucracy headed by Joseph Stalin had usurped political power in the mid- and late 1920s. The Stalin-led regime reversed the Bolsheviks' proletarian internationalist course and imposed a course of subordinating the interests of working people to some "progressive" wing of the capitalist class in countries around the world, in order to serve the diplomatic maneuvers of the bureaucratic caste.

In July 1936 Franco launched a reactionary rebellion among army officers in Morocco, a Spanish colony. As the fascist revolt spread in Spain, it was met by a huge popular upsurge. Working people demanded arms to fight the fascists. Workers began to occupy factories and called for workers control of those industries. Peasants seized land. A network of popular militias was established under the control of the workers organizations.

The Communist and Socialist parties, however, backed by the anarchists and the POUM, sought to defeat Franco through the Popular Front. To keep the bourgeois forces in that coalition, they agreed to put a lid on the demands of working people, from land reform to workers control of industry. They refused to grant Morocco's independence because that would jeopardize Madrid's relations with London, Paris, and other imperialist "democracies" that feared losing their own colonies. The central government reestablished control of the military struggle and blocked workers' revolutionary initiatives.

Counterrevolution

This strategy led to defeat of the revolution and even of the republican government. The bourgeoisie declared almost unanimously for Franco, leaving only its figureheads in the government. The U.S., British, and French governments, under the guise of "nonintervention," sabotaged the defense of the republic. The Moroccan people, a potential ally of the republic, became Franco's strongest base of support. Workers and farmers became increasingly demoralized by the class-collaborationist course of their leadership, and the fascist-led forces continued to advance.

Following this line, the Popular Front government, led by the Communist Party, stepped up persecution of militant workers. In 1937 it ordered the Civil Guard to suppress peasant land takeovers in Estremadura. It launched an assault on the Barcelona telephone exchange, held by the anarchist-led workers. It outlawed the POUM and arrested its leaders.

The CP, aided by the Soviet secret police, organized the arrest, torture, and murder of vanguard workers and leaders of the anarchists and the POUM, despite the support of the Popular Front by these two currents. The Bolshevik-Leninists, the communist current in Spain that collaborated with Trotsky and fought for a revolutionary course, were also persecuted.

By mid-1938 the fate of the Spanish republic had been sealed. In March 1939 the government surrendered to Franco's forces. The fascist-led regime was immediately recognized by the Roosevelt administration.

The defeats imposed on the working class in Germany, France, Spain, and elsewhere made World War II possible. Rather than eliminate fascism, the class-collaborationist course of the Stalinists and social democrats helped stabilize capitalism, the source of fascism.

The lesson of the revolutionary developments in Spain and other countries during that period is that such an outcome was *not* inevitable. The example set by the Russian Revolution under the leadership of the Bolshevik party points the road forward. That is the road of working people organizing a revolutionary movement that is independent of—not subordinate to—the bosses and their parties, and that leads to overturning capitalist rule.

Valuable books explaining these lessons include *The Spanish Revolution (1931–39)* and *The History of the Russian Revolution*, both by Trotsky, and *Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Spain* by Felix Morrow. They are published by Pathfinder Press.

New Zealand bus drivers end strike

BY TERRY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Bus drivers and maintenance workers employed by Stagecoach voted at a June 19 meeting here to accept a new contract. The workers won a nearly 15 percent wage increase to $16 an hour (US$11.35), a central demand of their contract fight, but conceded an extension of their workweek.

In early May 1,000 drivers, most of whom are members of the Tramways Union, stopped work for six days and erected picket lines at depots across the city, affecting a system that normally carries 30,000 passengers a day. Their action won widespread public support (see coverage in the May 30 issue).

Officials of the four combined unions representing the drivers recommended accepting the deal, something they had not done for previous Stagecoach offers rejected by the workers. This is the first time the four unions have combined in a dispute with the bosses. Around 73 percent voted to accept.

Drivers will now be required to work 45 hours instead of 40 before receiving overtime pay, which is reduced from time-and-a-half to time-and-a-quarter. The contract will run for two years.

Racist attack in N.Y.

Continued from front page
Avenue, the corner in Howard Beach, the middle-class, largely white enclave where the attack took place.

Small clumps of onlookers from the neighborhood gathered as the motorcade passed. A few rightists staged a muted counterprotest, wearing T-shirts that read "Free Ench," referring to one of the racist thugs arrested in the assault.

The targets of the racist assault—Moore, 22, Richard Wood, 20, and Richard Pope, 25—were walking in Howard Beach early in the morning of June 29 when three white men, Nicholas Minucci, 19, Frank Agostini, 19, and Anthony Ench, 21, jumped out of a Cadillac Escalade and chased them, shouting racist insults.

Wood and Pope eluded the attackers, but Moore stumbled and was assaulted by the three thugs. Minucci has admitted to beating Moore with a baseball bat. They then stole his earring, sneakers, and a bag of clothes and shoes for his six-month-old daughter, and left him semiconscious with a fractured skull.

Later that day, Wood and Pope identified Minucci and the vehicle that had chased them that night. Inside the car, the police found the aluminum bat used in the attack and two pairs of shoes that matched the description of those stolen.

The attack reminded many of a similar racist incident in Howard Beach. In 1986, three workers who are Black—Cedric Sandiford, Timothy Grimes, and Michael Griffith—were assaulted by a racist mob in the same neighborhood after their car broke down. Griffith, a 23-year-old construction worker, was struck and killed by a car while trying to escape, sparking large protests.

Both Minucci and Ench have been charged in the attack, with Minucci facing charges of first-degree assault, robbery, and weapons possession. The third attacker, Frank Agostini, who is the son of a New York City cop, has not yet been charged although he admitted he punched Moore.

"We want the DA to move swiftly to justice," New York State NAACP president Hazel Dukes told the *Militant*. "Its been alleged that one of them is a son of a policeman and not being charged with beating. But if he hit, kicked, or touched Glenn Moore he has to stand trial."



Militant/Arrin Hawkins

Chandra Eison, the mother of Glenn Moore, speaks to reporters July 4 outside the Jamaica Medical Center in Queens, New York, where Moore is recovering after being beaten June 29 in a racist assault in nearby Howard Beach.

Minucci has a history of racist violence. On Sept. 11, 2001, he was arrested for beating a Sikh man in Queens with a bat saying, "You f....g Arab. Why don't you blow this up."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and other city officials have sought to defuse the protests by publicly condemning the racist assailants. At a June 29 press conference held in Queens along with Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, Bloomberg said, "We will have no tolerance whatsoever for hate crimes against any groups in this city." Virginia Fields, Manhattan borough president and a Democratic mayoral candidate, also condemned the attack.

In a July 5 statement, Socialist Workers mayoral candidate Martín Koppel, called for "the swift prosecution—to the full extent of the law—of the three racist thugs who assaulted Glenn Moore." In moving quickly to make arrests, city hall seeks to put a lid on protests. It "had to weigh the outrage among working people and years of struggles against similar attacks in New York," he stated.

"The attack on Moore is not an isolated incident. The cause of this violence is a systemic one: capitalism, based on the exploitation of working people's labor by a handful of billionaire families, who profit from institutionalized racist discrimination in employment, housing, and schools," Koppel said.

The cops claimed the three Black men were out trying to steal a car in Howard Beach that night and have publicized their police records. This has been used in some press reports in an effort to obscure the racist character of the attack. A July 1 *New York Post* editorial, for example, headlined "Thug-On-Thug Violence," stated that it was a case of "punks with criminal records colliding in the predawn hours."

Liberal columnist Sheryl McCarthy wrote in New York *Newsday*, "If young men go to a neighborhood with the intention of ripping off the local residents, I'm not going to feel so sorry if one of them happens to get his butt kicked in the process."

Many working people in New York have rejected these arguments. "Who cares if they went there to steal a car. They didn't steal a car," said Angela Adams, of Jamaica, Queens. "That's not the issue on the table. It was a racist attack."

Thousands in Chicago protest arrival of anti-immigrant 'Minutemen'



Militant/Ilona Gersh

Thousands marched and rallied July 1 in Chicago, above, to protest a local publicity campaign by the anti-immigrant Minuteman Project. The group campaigns against immigration, including by patrolling the U.S.-Mexico border to stop working people from crossing into the United States, and opposes the employment of undocumented workers. The protest was initially called by radio station disc jockeys.

The protesters, in their majority Mexican-born workers, streamed into the rally from all over southwest Chicago, carrying signs that said "Stop denying it: You need us," "I'm not a terrorist; I'm a dishwasher in a restaurant," "Minuteman, your minute is up!" and demanding the right to a driver's license. Some banners and placards called for "amnesty" for immigrants, while others demanded "legalization."

—ILONA GERSH

U.S. Senate passes Central America trade accord

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) was approved by the U.S. Senate June 30 by a 54-45 vote. The treaty, negotiated by Washington with five Central American governments—Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala—and with the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean, will open up the economies of these countries to further penetration by U.S. finance capital. It will reinforce the unequal terms of trade between U.S. imperialism and these six semicolonial nations.

The accord is a regional version of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) pact, which the administrations of both President George Bush and his predecessor, William Clinton, have pushed to establish throughout Latin America. A similar U.S.-Chile "free trade" accord went into effect in January 2004.

The agreement would eventually end most tariffs and other trade barriers to U.S. farm and manufactured products sold in the region, open state monopolies to foreign competition, and remove legal barriers to foreign investment. There is about $32 billion in annual trade between the United States and the other signers of the accord. A study by the International Trade Commission estimates that this agreement would increase U.S. exports to these six countries by as much as $2.7 billion.

The narrow margin by which the Senate bill passed reflected the different gains and losses anticipated by sections of the U.S. capitalist class should it pass. A close vote is also expected in the House of Representatives.

Caterpillar, Proctor and Gamble, the National Pork Producers Council, the Grocery Manufacturers of America, and the U.S. Farm Bureau are among those that pushed for passage of the accord because they see the elimination of import tariffs in these countries as an opportunity to boost the export of their products into the region.

Other business organizations such as the American Sugar Alliance and the National Textile Association oppose CAFTA because of the increased competition they will face in sales of their products.

Despite the hype about being for "free trade," Washington continues to maintain an array of protectionist measures designed to shield industries most affected by import competition.

Big sugar producers, which receive $1.2 billion in annual sugar subsidies—equal to nearly a third of the Nicaraguan gross domestic product—are concerned that even slightly relaxing import quotas would affect their ability to keep U.S. sugar prices much higher than world prices. In seeking support for passage of CAFTA, White House officials agreed to limit sugar imports for another two years by paying Central American producers with surplus farm products not to export to the United States.

The pact would guarantee the U.S. pharmaceutical industry protection in sales of its products by preventing the production and sale of cheaper generic medicines to the other CAFTA signers. In addition, the telecommunications industry "would get intellectual property protections and access to the Caribbean Internet, cellular and land-line phone systems," noted an article in the *Washington Post.*

Top AFL-CIO officials have been among those most actively campaigning against passage of CAFTA. The union tops adopt an American nationalist stance, claiming that the trade pact "encourages destruction of more high-paying U.S. jobs." To advance this protectionist, pro-imperialist stance among union fighters, they attempt to link the signing of the trade pact to agreements on labor and environmental law.

Farming and the fight for a nonracial South Africa

Below is an excerpt from the introduction to Apartheid's Great Land Theft—The Struggle for the Right to Farm in South Africa, *one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for July. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. The fight of the oppressed majority for access to land and the right to farm, the subject of the pamphlet, is a central plank of the Charter. The apartheid system was overturned by the revolutionary struggle of the South African people, which culminated in the first nonracial elections in 1994, won by Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress. The full text of the Charter is available in* New International *no. 5.*

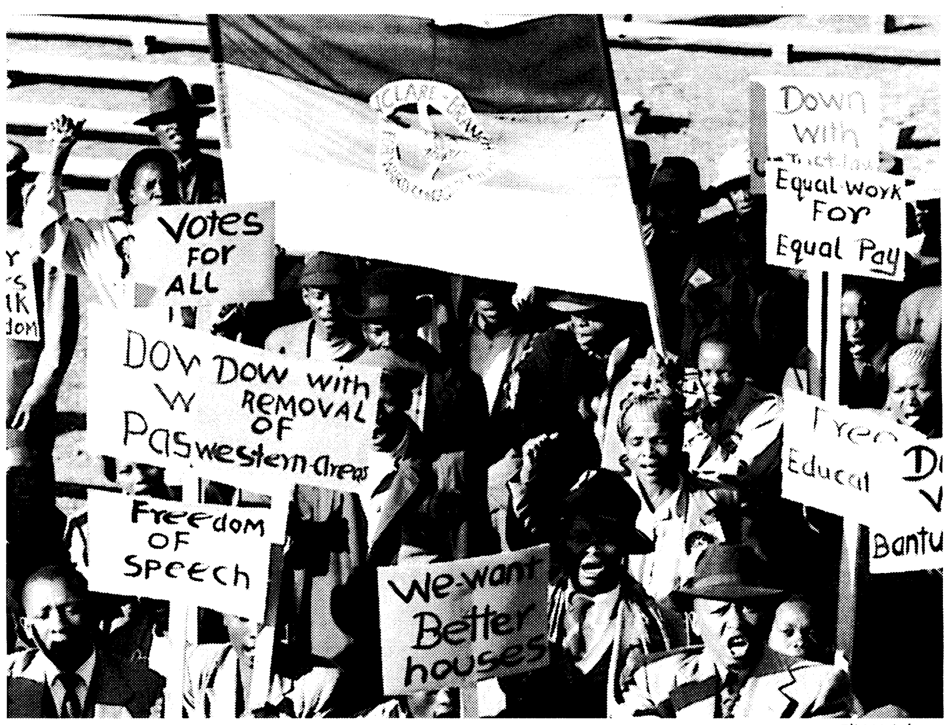
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY STEVE CLARK

The land shall be shared among those who work it.

That is the title of one section of the Freedom Charter, the platform of the South African freedom struggle adopted in 1955 by 3,000 delegates to the Congress of the People.

The Freedom Charter is today the program of the national, democratic revolution to overthrow the apartheid state and tear apart the system of white supremacy in South Africa. That revolution will make possible, for the first time, the forging of a nonracial South African nation-state with full rights for all its inhabitants—the 28 million people who comprise the Black majority, as well as all those among the 5 million whites who are willing to live and work as equals….



Eli Weinberg

Rally at Congress of the People at which the Freedom Charter was adopted in Kliptown, near Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1955.

This lack of information is particularly gaping with regard to the struggle for equal land rights. Even those individuals who are acquainted with the truth about the apartheid system often know little about the conditions in those sections of the oppressed Black population consigned to miserable poverty in the rural Bantustans or about those being driven in growing numbers from the land they till in the 87 percent of South African territory reserved for "whites only."

This pamphlet is aimed at helping to fill this gap. It is based on two articles that appeared in the December 16 and December 30, 1985, issues of *Intercontinental Press*, a biweekly international newsmagazine published in New York.

By telling the story of the forced dispossession of Africans of the soil and the struggle against this massive land theft, the pamphlet also explains a great deal about the origins of the apartheid system, its current policies, and the revolutionary movement to overthrow it….

The centrality of the struggle for access to the land in the South African revolution is a major theme of a report by Jack Barnes adopted by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party in August 1985. That report was published under the title "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" in the Fall 1985 issue of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory. Africans have been dispossessed of their land and forcibly denied the right to farm, the report explains. These are preconditions for the maintenance of the entire structure of racist subjugation under apartheid.

The South African revolution, Barnes says, "is a revolution to conquer the right of the Black majority to own, work, and develop the land from which they have been expelled by the apartheid regime. To win the right of Africans to become free farmers, producing cash crops for an expanding home market. To carry out a real Homestead Act, opening the land to those who want to work it."

Barnes explains that the opponents of the racist apartheid system "get a false picture of South Africa unless we understand the economic and social consequences of [the] forcible denial of Africans' right to own and till the land. If we think of South Africa just in terms of its industry and mines, of what we know about the cities and the white farmers in the countryside, we get a false picture. We see only the South Africa of the white state, of the white minority. We don't see the South African nation-state that has not yet been born....

"Opening the land," the report emphasizes, "is inseparable from resolving the national question" in South Africa. "Neither can be accomplished without the destruction of the apartheid state structure, which blocks the road to development of the South African nation-state." These tasks can only be carried through to completion by a broad revolutionary democratic movement under the leadership of an alliance of the exploited producers—the urban working class, the agricultural wage workers, and the peasants in the Bantustans and in the countryside of "white" South Africa. The toilers from the oppressed Black majority are the vanguard force in this revolutionary alliance.

—*IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP*—

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 3029A Bessemer Rd. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: bhmswp@yahoo.com

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net **San Francisco:** 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 2791 Lakewood Ave. Zip: 30315. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515. Zip 30321. Tel: (404) 768-1709. E-mail: swpatlanta@aol.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@cs.com

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 12 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Mailing address: Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: bostonswp@cs.com

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 113 Bernard St., West St. Paul. Zip: 55118. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@yahoo.com

NEW YORK: Manhattan: 306 W. 37th Street, 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@yahoo.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: PhiladelphiaSWP@gmail.com **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: PittsburghSWP@netscape.com

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@ev1.net

UTAH: Price: 11 W. Main St., Rm. 103. Zip: 84501 Tel: (435) 613-1091. utahswp@yahoo.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 722-1315. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: swpseattle@yahoo.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@bigpond.com

CANADA

ONTARIO: Toronto: 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, M6R 3A9 Tel: (416) 535-9140. E-mail: cltoronto@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

ICELAND

Reykjavík: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavík. Tel: 552 1202. E-mail: kbreykjavik@simnet.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauck@paradise.net.nz

Christchurch: Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Postal address: P.O. Box 13-969. Tel: (3) 365-6055. E-mail: clchch@paradise.net.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bjulvägen 33, kv, S-122 41 Enskede. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@telia.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-3855. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: First Floor, 3 Grosvenor St., Haymarket. Postal code: EH12 5ED. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@btinternet.com

EDITORIAL

Imperialist military not 'ours'

The *Militant*, as our front-page masthead asserts, is published in the interests of working people. The headline and content of an editorial in our June 13 issue—"Oppose faulty gear for GIs"—flew in the face of that pledge and must be corrected.

The editorial commented on news reports that Point Blank Body Armor, a company with plants in Florida and elsewhere that make bulletproof vests and related equipment, had sold substandard gear to the Marines. The column condemned "the production and sale by the bosses of defective bulletproof vests used by U.S. soldiers," which it said was "increasing the dangers facing the GIs stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan." Similar statements appeared in a front-page article the following week.

The call to "oppose faulty vests for GIs" can only be read as backing *"our GIs."* But the U.S. imperialist army and its troops are not "ours." The U.S. military does not defend the interests of working people. It is the army of the tiny handful of capitalist families who maintain their power and privilege off the wealth produced by the labor of our class and its allies.

Along with federal, state, and local cops, the army is the body of armed men and women used by the propertied rulers to defend their exploitation and oppression of workers and farmers, from Boston to Baghdad. Washington's bloody wars abroad are an extension of the bosses' offensive at home to push down wages, extend hours, throw safety to the winds, and cut pensions and medical coverage.

That is why class-conscious workers *do not* join in calls for "better quality" bulletproof vests or other military equipment. So-called protective gear produced by Point Blank is no different from other weapons that allow units of the Army, Marines, and Special Operations forces to carry out urban warfare with greater brutality.

Workers' interests are harmed by anything that strengthens the army of our exploiters. That includes anything aimed at reducing the dangers the U.S. Army confronts as Washington carries out military operations against our brothers and sisters around the world.

The earlier editorial stands in contrast to the working-class internationalism that is and remains the hallmark of the *Militant* since our first issue more than 75 years ago. It was a political adaptation to what communists have called social patriotism. It echoed one of the rationalizations used by "our own" capitalist class to mislead working people into backing U.S. government war policies.

From our origins, the *Militant* has responded to U.S. wars and military interventions—from World War II to Korea, from Vietnam to the Gulf wars of 1991 and today—by opposing any appeal by the employers for "national unity" and "equality of sacrifice." We've urged labor and the oppressed to reject calls to subordinate or let up struggles for better wages and conditions, for Black rights, for women's equality, and for other demands.

Above all, we have explained that working people must organize a revolutionary movement to take power out of the hands of the war makers and establish a workers and farmers government—the only way to put an end to imperialist war and brutality once and for all.

War profiteering, whether by Point Blank or Boeing, is endemic to capitalist war. As the bosses whip up patriotic sentiment to rationalize using young workers and farmers as cannon fodder, they also squeeze every penny they can from war production—from their own government, other governments, and often from both sides.

The response by class-conscious workers is to demand immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and other imperialist troops from Iraq, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Korea, Haiti, Colombia, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and anywhere else they are deployed. That *is* in the interests of working people—both at home and abroad.

LETTERS

The issues at Point Blank

I did not express my views accurately in the brief remark that appeared in the article "Garment workers in Florida expose war profiteering" in the June 27 *Militant.* I am quoted there as saying: "It's the union that cares about the lives of the soldiers who wear the vests we make. It's us, the union, who have resisted the company's attempt to speed up production by arguing that workers must have the time and training to do a quality job."

But the U.S. armed forces are not "our troops." They are used to *enforce* the interests of the U.S. ruling rich around the world.

I have consistently explained to my co-workers at the Point Blank Body Armor plant in Oakland Park, Florida, where I am employed, that I am for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and from other locations where they are deployed, including the Korean Peninsula and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. With the far-reaching reorganization of the U.S. military well under way, it is not hard to imagine these troops being deployed against working people in this country in the future, as struggles by workers and farmers mount against the conditions we face.

Workers at the Oakland Park Point Blank plant are paid between $6.15 (Florida's minimum wage) and about $10 an hour while the company pushes a production speedup and rakes in hundreds of millions of dollars.

Decent hourly wages, safe working conditions, and solidarity with other working people at home and abroad—these are the key issues union members face.

That same article calls the items produced by the company "protective equipment." That is inaccurate, too. The kneepads, bulletproof vests, and other material made for the armed forces and cops is part of their weaponry. It is my view that the so-called "quality" of these goods is management's problem—not ours.

Barbara Bowman
Miami, Florida

Socialist campaign platform

I am writing in regards to the following paragraph taken from issue no. 25 of the *Militant* on the Pittsburgh Socialist Workers Party mayoral campaign:

"[SWP candidate Jay] Ressler is speaking out against the drive by Washington and its allies to prevent nations oppressed by imperialism from developing nuclear power and other energy sources needed to expand electrification—a necessity for economic and social advances."

When I read that paragraph, a central demand since the 2004 campaign, one aspect struck me as being off. What exactly is this drive by Washington and its allies? What is their ultimate objective with this policy course and does the demand accurately reflect it?

The various initiatives undertaken within the framework of the drive, e.g., the transformation of the International Atomic Energy Agency into imperialism's nuclear police, the illegal application of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Proliferation Security Initiative, and so on, don't apply to "other energy sources." I don't think they are confiscating solar panels when they illegally board freighters on the high seas.

Washington and its allies are not preoccupied with countries developing "other sources of energy" but with them developing nuclear capability challenging their monopoly over their ultimate weapon.

I think it would be better to present a formulation of opposing imperialism's drive against countries seeking to develop nuclear power to advance their economic and cultural development, and demanding the sovereign right of countries threatened by imperialism to defend themselves by any means necessary, including nuclear weapons.

Karl Butts
Tampa, Florida

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people.

Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Imperialism blocks energy access in semicolonial world

REPLY TO A READER

BY SAM MANUEL

In his letter to the editor printed on this page, Karl Butts writes regarding an article in the July 4 *Militant* reporting on the campaign of Jay Ressler, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh. The article said: "Ressler is speaking out against the drive by Washington and its allies to prevent nations oppressed by imperialism from developing nuclear power and other energy sources needed to expand electrification—a necessity for economic and social advances." This is a central point in the SWP 2005 campaign platform.

Butts agrees on the centrality of the need to expose the imperialist campaign to prevent semicolonial countries from acquiring and developing nuclear power. But he questions whether it's accurate to say Washington and its imperialist allies are on a drive to block access by Third World nations to other energy sources.

The U.S. rulers and other imperialist powers are using threats and pressures against Iran, north Korea, and other countries that have shown the capacity to develop relatively soon the defensive military means—including nuclear weapons—to deal serious blows in response to U.S. assaults.

But there is also a broader, permanent effort by the imperialist ruling families to maintain their ability to plunder the colonial and semicolonial world. By its nature, imperialism perpetuates the economic underdevelopment of these countries, and those unequal social relations are reinforced by government policies. To this end, it seeks to block or control access of oppressed nations to all vital energy sources, including nuclear power.

For example, in Iran in the 1950s—well before the confrontation over nuclear energy—Washington and London orchestrated the overthrow of the government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh after it nationalized Iran's oil industry.

A current example of this imperialist drive is Nigeria. Africa's largest oil producing country has proven reserves of 35 billion barrels. But Nigeria spends $2 billion a year importing petroleum products. Why? Because it lacks the refining capacity to meet domestic needs, and the imperialist oil monopolies are not interested in developing that capacity.

Despite its abundant oil, much of Nigeria's electricity is supplied from hydropower stations. Only 40 percent of Nigeria's 128 million inhabitants have access to electricity, mostly in urban areas.

And Bolivia today has been rocked by sustained protests of tens of thousands of workers and peasants against imperialist plunder of the country's oil and gas resources. Working people are demanding nationalization of oil and gas. To try to placate protesters the government adopted a 50 percent tax on the foreign energy monopolies. In response, the foreign energy giants have threatened to substantially cut investment in Bolivia's energy sector.

Washington's targeting of the nuclear programs in Iran, north Korea, Brazil, and India are also part of the imperialist rulers' efforts to maintain their control of the world's resources. The Socialist Workers campaign takes the side of oppressed nations in the struggle to expand access to electricity, part of the effort to forge an international alliance of workers and farmers.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

NEW YORK

Manhattan

War and the Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialism: Some Experiences from World War II and the Korean War Speaker: Tom Leonard, veteran leader of the SWP, sailed as merchant seaman at end of WWII. Sat., July 16. Dinner 6:00 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program. *307 W. 36th St. 10th Floor (north elevators). Tel: (212) 629-6649*

NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch

Imperialist Hands off Zimbabwe. Fri., July 15. 7:00 p.m. *129-131 Gloucester St. Tel: (03) 365-6055.*